## MANUAL ALPHABET

WHEN SPELLING, ARM IS IN NEAR CHEST, WRIST IS STEADY, USUALLY ONLY FINGERS MOVING C D

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

**HEALTH AND HUMAN** 

SERVICES AGENCY

S. Kimberly Belshé, Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF

SOCIAL SERVICES



PUB 179A (4/04)

# between law officials and deaf people. Deaf people 1) have not responded correctly to police because they could not be lipread, 2) have reached for paper/pencil and were assumed to be reaching for

weapons, 3) have not heeded police warnings because they could not hear them. Although the speech of deaf people sounds different from that of hearing people, there is no direct cause-effect relationship between deafness and inability to speak. The terms "deaf-mute" and "deaf and dumb" are incorrect and are considered insults by the deaf.

It is hoped this card will alleviate some communication problems

Messages need not include signs for all words in English sentences. For example, the words in parentheses may be understood by context, natural body movement, etc. "(Were any) people hurt? I need (some) paper (and a) pencil." Many sentences can be made from the signs on this card; e.g. "Please show me your registration card."

When asking questions, lean forward, use a questioning expression, and hold the last sign. Use natural gestures, eg. headshakes for agreement and negation.

In the sign illustrations, dotted hands show starting positions. Use the manual alphabet to fingerspell names and other key words for which you have no sign. Be sure to speak when signing; lipreading and use of residual hearing help. It is easier to sign than to understand signs, so be patient. Also, since speaking is easier than lipreading, deaf people can often speak understandably, but cannot understand others without signs or writing.

### **COMMUNICATION SUGGESTIONS**

### **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA:**

Cypress: (714) 826-9793 Voice/TTY (323) 478-8000 Voice/TTY Los Angeles: Riverside: (909) 275-5000 Voice/TTY

(619) 398-2441 Voice San Diego:

(619) 398-2440 TTY

LOCAL INTERPRETERS AND SERVICES

Ventura: (805) 644-6322 Voice (805) 644-6323 TTY

## **CENTRAL CALIFORNIA:**

(559) 225-3323 Voice

(559) 225-0415 TTY

(209) 726-7783 Voice Merced:

Salinas: (831) 753-6540 Voice

(831) 753-6541 TTY

(209) 726-7786 TTY

#### **NORTHERN CALIFORNIA:**

Fresno:

(916) 349-7500 Voice/TTY Sacramento: Stockton (209) 474-1573 Voice

(209) 474-3088 TTY

#### **BAY AREA AND NORTHERN CALIFORNIA:**

San Leandro: (415) 483-0753 Voice (415) 483-6914 TTY

## **A MANUAL COMMUNICATION GUIDE** FOR FIELD OFFICERS

Originated by Frank Caccamise/Carolyn Norris

California Department of Social Services Office of Deaf Access

#### DEAF ACCESS PROGRAM

744 P Street, MS 6-91, Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 653-8320 (Voice) (916) 653-7651 (TDD)

www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/OfficeofDe 189.htm

